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India: The political schism is deepening as Prime Minister Gandhi prepares to fight the old-guard's decision yesterday to expel her from the ruling Congress Party.

Mrs. Gandhi's opponents were able to vote her expulsion through their control of the party's 21-man central working committee. She claims to have the loyalty of a majority of the Congress Party members of Parliament, however. She also claims a majority on the party's supreme governing body, the All India Congress Committee. Mrs. Gandhi is convening a meeting of the parliamentary party members today. She expects them to endorse her continued party leadership.

Mrs. Gandhi is also likely to be successful in her bid to retain her office as prime minister when Parliament reconvenes on Monday, despite her opponents' demand that a new head of government be chosen. Even with the defection of as many as one third of the Congress Party legislators, Mrs. Gandhi should still be able to arrange for a vote of confidence with the help of opposition parties. She expects support from some independents, socialists and regional parties. She could, if necessary, also get the backing of at least the more moderate of the two Communist parties. Mrs. Gandhi could continue to govern with this ad hoc type of support. Even without a Congress majority, she would not necessarily have to form a coalition. Such mixed legislative support could lead to instability on future issues.

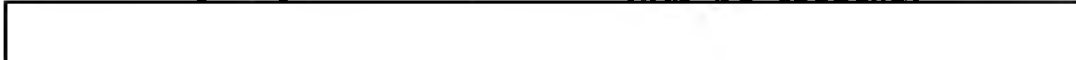
A formal split in the party now seems nearly certain, but a sizable majority of its members will probably stick with Mrs. Gandhi. Should elections become necessary in the short term, however, the "bosses" have enough residual control to make it very difficult for her to win a one-party majority.

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Meanwhile, Mrs. Gandhi's supporters continue to prepare for a meeting of the All India Congress Committee, which she has called for 22-23 November. Presumably, it will reaffirm support for the prime minister and vote to oust Congress Party president Nijalingappa. Nijalingappa, in turn, has ruled this meeting out of order. He expects to preside at the regularly scheduled meeting of the All India Congress Committee in December. Two parallel Congress Party organizations could thus be created.



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Bolivia: Military dissatisfaction with the Ovando government continues to grow.

There are now at least two factions in the military that oppose the President. One, the radical faction, believes that Ovando is too timid and vacillating to carry out the "revolution" effectively. It apparently is led by armed forces commander in chief General Torres. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] General Torres is working closely with the leftist Minister of Mines Quiroga. Torres was one of those who helped form the Nationalist Leftist Front (FNI), a coalition of members drawn from several of Bolivia's political parties. The FNI was launched early this month to provide civilian political support for the more radical government actions, such as the nationalization of the Bolivian Gulf Oil Company.

The other faction in opposition to Ovando is made up of more moderate officers who object to having the armed forces associated with recent government actions. The moderates are not organized at this time, [REDACTED]

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There is as yet no evidence that either faction is preparing to move against Ovando in the near future, but both groups will undoubtedly try to move their men into strategic positions. [REDACTED]

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Colombia: The failure of party conventions last week to choose a National Front candidate for next year's presidential elections has touched off a political imbroglio.

Factionalism, bickering, and a proliferation of candidates caused a stalemate between President Lleras' hand-picked successor Misael Pastrana and darkhorse candidate Evaristo Sourdís. Both polled 278 votes at the Conservative Party convention. Under the 12-year-old National Front agreement, it is the Conservatives' turn to name the presidential successor. A maverick Conservative candidate, Belisario Betancur, chosen by a "popular" convention has further split the party's ranks.

The deadlock resulted from a breakdown of the frail union between the leaders of the two main Conservative factions. The leader of the smaller one successfully blocked Pastrana by joining several pre-convention candidates under Sourdís' banner. This move has challenged the predominance of former president Ospina as Conservative leader for the future.

The Liberals, also suffering from splits within their ranks, refused a request that they choose the Conservative who would be the National Front candidate. They insisted on first consulting with Conservative leaders, consequently leaving the choice of candidates wide open.

Although the parties probably will ultimately settle on a mutually satisfactory candidate, two to four weeks of intense political activity can be expected before agreement on a candidate is made, according to the US Embassy in Bogota. Most politicians agree that if they do not get together, the National Front system of government, which terminates in 1974 unless renewed, may come to a premature end and result in further political disintegration.

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USSR - Middle East: Pravda's Middle East editor, Igor Belyayev, who recently returned from the area, has told a US Embassy official that the US should be careful in assessing Nasir's recent speech. Belyayev described the speech as "the usual rhetoric" aimed at Arab public opinion, which he claimed has become frustrated by lack of progress toward a settlement and suspicious of Nasir's role as mediator in the Lebanese crisis. The Pravda editor urged the US to intensify its efforts for a peaceful settlement. These remarks are further evidence that Moscow remains interested in continuing negotiations on a political settlement in the Middle East, despite its recent propaganda attacking the US.

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Turkey: University officials in Istanbul fear that a new wave of student unrest may be imminent. After nearly two months of relative calm, about 30 students were arrested on Tuesday following violent clashes between pro-left and pro-right students. A police raid the same day on a leftist student headquarters uncovered two bombs similar to the one found recently at Istanbul University. Although student extremist groups continue to be highly volatile, there is no indication that the recent clash is the beginning of a campaign to promote renewed crisis in Turkey.

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Kenya: President Jomo Kenyatta has announced the dates for the first elections for Parliament since independence. Primary elections to select the candidates of the governing party, the Kenya Africa National Union (KANU), are scheduled for 6 December and general elections for 20 December. Because Kenya has no opposition party since the government dissolved the Kenya People's Union last month, the general elections will be a mere formality. The only contests will be the primaries in areas where two or more politicians are seeking the KANU nomination.

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St. Lucia: Premier Compton's three-month ban on political demonstrations could trigger clashes between the opposition and police. Compton, who was returned to office last April with a reduced Assembly majority, instituted the ban after protestors called for his resignation. Opposition leader Kenneth Foster has boasted that his party will force Compton out. Foster lost his own bid for Assembly re-election, and probably cannot mount any major threat at present. His followers, however, appear determined to maintain political pressure on Compton and may defy the government edict.

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